

the U.S. approaches a new presidential election, views of the U.S. are being mitigated by hope that a new administration will move away from foreign policies that have been so unpopular in the world."

Mr. Speaker, what the world thinks of America matters. And it is not just because we want to win popularity contests. It is far more serious than that. Our ability to lead the world is badly damaged when our reputation is in tatters. We cannot lead the world in the fight against terrorism when so many people in the world, even our best friends, believe that we are a threat to peace ourselves. We cannot lead the world in the fight against the many other global problems, including poverty, disease, climate change, and the lack of educational opportunity when we have lost our moral authority and credibility.

When you go to war under false pretenses, devastate a nation that never attacked you, and condone torture, you don't make America stronger, you make America weaker, because you undermine values that are the real source of our strength. America's great values are democracy, the rule of law, peace, and compassion for the people of the world. Our occupation of Iraq has trampled on all of these values. The veto of Congress' effort to outlaw waterboarding is just the latest example of what I am talking about.

And what was gained by trashing our values? Nothing. A report written by the National Defense University, the Pentagon's premier military educational institute, called our occupation of Iraq a major debacle.

Mr. Speaker, 92 Members of the House have written to the President to tell him that we will fully fund the responsible redeployment of our troops out of Iraq, but we will not approve another penny to support the disastrous policy of open-ended occupation.

After more than 5 years of occupation, it is time for us to redeem America's reputation, restore our values, rebuild Iraq, and lead the world in the fight for peace once again.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ELLISON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CELEBRATING EARTH DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, 2 days ago we celebrated Earth Day, a holiday that began in 1970, when Senator Gaylord Nelson recognized the growing public movement that we now know as environmentalism, and called on environmentally concerned citizens to join him in cities around the world to demonstrate, teach, and learn about preserving the world's natural wonders.

Speaking on that occasion, Senator Nelson said of the first Earth Day, "It may be the birth date of a new American ethic that rejects the frontier philosophy that the continent was put here for our plunder and accepts the idea that even urbanized, affluent, mobile societies are interdependent with the fragile life-sustaining systems of the air, the water, and the land."

Today, we have accomplished many of the goals of the first environmentalists: Cleaning up rivers so polluted by industrial waste that they burned, and air polluted with lead, mercury, and sulfur. But there are still many pollutants that we have not eliminated, and we have come to realize that pollution is not a local problem, but a global one as well.

□ 1600

We alter the environment with factories and refineries, but also through agriculture, fishing and mining. In many ways we are lucky. Drawing on our long experience of environmental remediation and policy-making, we know some of the solutions to the endemic, international problem of climate change.

This is a problem of such scope and depth that it can seem daunting at times. But if I were ever tempted to retreat from confronting this problem because of its size, I need only look at my daughter Alexa, who is here with me today, and my son Eli and realize that this is not a problem I am willing to leave to them.

But Earth Day was first a day for awareness, and I would like to continue that tradition today by taking a short break from the important debates we had earlier today, and celebrate some of the small steps people around the country are taking to reduce their impact on the world we all share.

Some Americans have found that the wind passing over their farms and ranches is as valuable a resource as the oil beneath the farm or ranch once was, and have replaced their oil wells with windmills.

Some have jumped on board in the most American of ways—by starting a business. The green-tech sector is growing by leaps and bounds with companies developing technologies for solar, wind and geothermal energy, biofuels, carbon capture and storage, energy efficiency, smart electric grids, and low-carbon agriculture, to name a few.

Some have replaced their windows and washing machines with more en-

ergy-efficient ones, and installed extra insulation to reduce their heating bills. They have discovered that just changing the light bulbs to an energy-efficient model will reduce their electric bill dramatically and save energy.

Some companies now offer transit passes and bike racks to encourage their employees to commute efficiently, and many employees are taking up that challenge.

But Earth Day is also a day to look forward to see what we can do next.

Many Americans will install solar panels, solar water heaters, attic fans and geothermal heat pumps in our homes to reduce our dependence on the power company. Many Americans will buy houses made of renewable materials and cars that run on biofuels. Those same cars will plug into a grid during the day, providing a buffer against blackouts and brownouts.

Other Americans will enjoy public transportation that reaches further out into our suburbs and links our communities more tightly together. And still other Americans will work for companies that build green technologies and sell them all over the world to countries desperate for an answer to their polluted water and air, and mounting energy needs.

These are the efforts that we must begin today so we can see the fruits of our labor tomorrow. But today, we must all remember that Earth Day is an opportunity to teach our children to respect the planet we live on. By taking them hiking or fishing or camping or bicycling, we introduce them to a world of mountains and forests and beaches that they will continue to enjoy and appreciate for the rest of their lives. We protect the environment so our children will have a healthy planet to live on, and we teach our children to be environmentalists so that their children will have the same healthy home.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TSONGAS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FRANKS of Arizona addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

LIMITS ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, is America giving visas and diplomatic immunity to terrorist sponsors who wish to destroy our country?

The United States has designated North Korea, Iran, Cuba, Syria, and Sudan as state sponsors of terrorism. These terrorist-sponsoring states are actively engaged in espionage against America.

Two months ago reports surfaced that Cuba is placing top intelligence operatives known as “ambassador spies” in key embassies worldwide to gather information and provide intelligence to America’s enemies. In July of last year, Germany expelled an Iranian diplomatic for attempting to acquire nuclear components for the Islamic Republic’s nuclear program. In December of 2006, South Korea indicted five people on charges of spying for North Korea for allegedly passing on “national secrets” such as U.S. troop movements, among other things.

Let me give you another example. Three years in a row, in 2002, 2003 and 2004, personnel from the Iranian Mission to the United Nations were actually caught, they were actually caught, photographing and videotaping the New York subway and other popular landmarks in New York City. Who knows what other things they were involved in that we do not know about?

These are not our friends, and yet we allow them to use the United Nations as a cover for their activities. Over 6,600 visas have been issued to diplomats, representatives, and other individuals from state sponsors of terrorism for the past 5 years. Some of these individuals with diplomatic immunity have already been expelled for spying, or in diplomatic terms, “engaging in activities inconsistent with their duties.” Most of these individuals would not be otherwise allowed into our country.

U.S. Public Law 357, enacted in 1947, clarified the United Nations Headquarters Agreement of November 21, 1947. In section 6, this law states that “nothing in the agreement shall be construed as in any way diminishing, abridging or weakening the right of the United States to safeguard its own security,” and in particular, “completely to control the entrance of aliens into any territory of the United States other than the U.N. headquarters district and its immediate vicinity.”

The bill I am introducing with my colleagues today, the LIMITS Act, Limiting the Intrusive Miles of International Terrorist Sponsors Act of 2008, would limit the vicinity for state sponsors of terrorism to a half-mile radius of the U.N. complex. Half of a mile is more than enough space for personnel to obtain lodging, food and other necessities, even medical care, and it will be easier and more cost effective for the U.S. intelligence community and law enforcement to monitor suspected individuals when necessary.

Current mileage restrictions are far too lax to be effective. Some individuals from countries designated as state sponsors of terrorism are permitted to travel within a 25-mile radius of Columbus Circle in New York City. That is 50 miles from end to end which is a horrendously large area to effectively monitor hundreds of terrorist sponsors. And yet some countries designated as state sponsors of terrorism have no mileage restrictions at all.

This is a vulnerability that we have ignored for way too long. Foreign espionage against the United States has increased in recent years. In the case of the United Nations, there is no trade-off or reciprocity. All of the risk is borne by the United States. Why are we continuing to ignore this problem?

It is time to level the playing field by providing a consistent, strict standard for personnel from state sponsors of terrorism, while simultaneously easing the burden on the U.S. intelligence community and the law enforcement community responsible for ensuring our safety.

I urge all of my colleagues that have not done so already to cosponsor this bill, the LIMITS Act of 2008. I encourage the leadership of the House of Representatives to bring this bill to the floor for a vote as soon as possible. Our security depends upon it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HOMELAND SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the issues of homeland security and ask my colleagues to reflect upon the legislation, historic legislation that we have just passed regarding the U.S. Coast Guard. We have added enough new Coast Guard to raise the number to 47,000 members of the U.S. Coast Guard. That is something to applaud.

We have provided an opportunity for securing our LNG, liquid natural gas, in the number of ports around America where surrounding communities exist. We have created a format to secure our waterways where the U.S. Coast Guard is involved. We have provided for an enhanced expedited process for securing what we call TWIC cards. These are documentation for port workers to have after September 25, 2008.

Today I rise to offer a resolution that will acknowledge the Transportation Security Administration addressing the question of security as relates to our transportation security that would mandate the implementation of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 that enhances security against terrorist attack and other security threats to our Nation’s rail and mass transit.

I am doing this along with a number of Members, including Chairman BENNIE THOMPSON of the full committee. It is important to note that transportation systems are systems that have been under attack, particularly mass transit, and I believe it is

important to encourage TSA to continue to develop the National Explosive Detection Canine Team Program which is supported in a bipartisan manner, one that I have seen work and has been very effective to improve the success of the Online Learning Center by providing increased person-to-person professional development programs to ensure those responsible for securing against terrorist attacks on our transportation systems are highly trained and to continue to serve our Nation’s mass transit and rail systems against terrorist attack and other security threats so as to ensure the safety of our commuters on our Nation’s mass transit.

This is a resolution to encourage the TSA to improve their work product, to thank them for the work product that they are doing, but also to encourage them to work diligently in compliance with the new legislation that we just passed.

I also want to speak to the phenomenon that is being used across America called ICE raids. I am very well aware that the Secretary of Homeland Security believes that he has been forced to use a new tactic in immigration reform because this Congress has not been able to shed itself of obstacles of bias and disagreement, to get into a room and truly provide for comprehensive reform of the immigration system, something I have worked on for 6 years.

I appreciate the leadership from both sides of the aisle with their different perspectives. I am delighted to serve on the Judiciary Committee with JOHN CONYERS and ZOE LOFGREN, who have been champions of this reform process, along with BENNIE THOMPSON and LORETTA SANCHEZ on Homeland Security.

But we cannot stand by and allow our immigration system to be formed by massive raids on individuals who are here only to work. My fear is that a potential violent act may occur out of fear and apprehension. So I believe it is important for the administration, the White House, to stand up and be counted, to go to the bully pulpit and insist on a comprehensive response to immigration, not the raiding of Shipley’s Do-Nuts, so that people in an apartment building are jumping out of apartment building windows out of fear. You are not going to deport 12 million people. Get a life. It is important to know who everyone is, and I want to make sure that we do so.

I want it to be known that I stand against random ICE raids. I am not against immigration reform in a right way. I am not for illegal immigration. But I will tell you it will not work. It will be deadly and it will be devastating. It is important for employers to hire documented workers and be under the eye of the law, and we should enforce this idea of making sure people are documented.

□ 1615

But it’s up to the government to get a system that works so that we can